Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

The Coordinator

Some said it would never happen, three licenses one code speed.

NEVER say NEVER

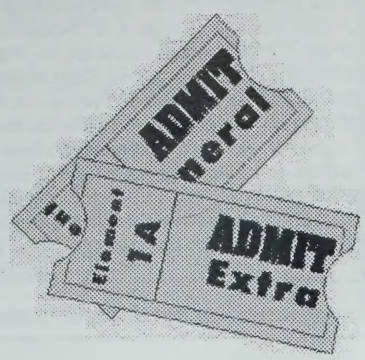
FCC Announces Amateur Restructuring

The FCC has issued its long-awaited Report and Order on amateur licensing restructuring. The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes—Technician, General, and Amateur Extra—and a single Morse code requirement—5 WPM. ''We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art,'' the FCC said. Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would ''eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts.'' Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges.

The ARRL had proposed a one-time, across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely. Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands will remain and not be ''refarmed'' to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not refarm these subbands because there was ''no consensus'' within the amateur community as to what to do with them. The FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as ''Technician'' licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. The FCC said it may request documentation from a licensee or VEC to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination.

(Continued on page 2)



What's in This Issue

Amateur License Restructuring
WWARA Elects New Board
Restructuring Explained
Clay's Corner
FCC Enforcement
And more . . .

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONFUSION FOLLOW IN FCC's WAKE

Questions, comments, and some confusion have been the order of the day since the FCC finally dropped the other shoe on Amateur Radio restructuring on December 30. The FCC's momentous action—reducing the number of license classes to three and establishing 5 WPM as the sole Morse code examination element—has, at least for now, polarized the Amateur Radio community. It also promises to change the complexion of Amateur Radio as it enters the new millennium.

More than half of those responding to an informal poll on the ARRL Web site indicate they plan to upgrade during 2000. Demand for study materials in the past week suggests many amateurs will be hitting the books in the coming weeks.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. The FCC's new licensing scheme simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra. Applicants will only have to pass one Morse code test, and there are fewer written examinations and total questions.

"This is the best news I have heard since bread and butter!" exclaimed Jimmy Stewart, WD9FHY, who said he's been trying unsuccessfully for years to boost his code proficiency. On the other side were some who asserted that the revised requirements would contribute to a further decline of Amateur Radio and open the doors to "riff-raff."

The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to review the FCC Report and Order and discuss its implications when it meets January 21-22 in Memphis.

In a significant step, the FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, including the ARRL-VEC, now are under the gun to meet the plan's April 15 implementation date. "The Question Pool Committee has been meeting by telephone and e-mail to get the updating process under way," said ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "It's anticipated that the QPC will put out a news release soon that indicates when the updated question pools will be available to the public." Jahnke said the revised question pools will be out "well in advance" of April 15.

No one loses any privileges under the FCC's new plan, and, with one limited exception, no licensee is in a position to automatically gain any privileges when April 15 rolls around. The FCC's action establishes the Technician license—with or without Morse code credit—as the entry-level ticket to Amateur Radio. Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM Morse code exam will gain current Tech Plus HF privileges. The current "no-code" Tech license will continue to be available. Technician applicants opting to not take the code test will gain current Technician VHF/UHF privileges. After April 15, 2000, the FCC will lump Technician and Technician Plus licensees into a single "Technician" database. Despite the name change, current Tech Plus licensees won't lose any privileges.

Similarly, current General and Amateur Extra class holders will continue to enjoy their current privileges. The FCC took no action to reallocate any amateur bands.

The new licensing regime has four examination elements: Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2, a 35-question Technician test; Element 3, a 35-question General test, and Element 4, a 50-question Amateur Extra test. The new Amateur Extra test is expected to combine the important elements of the current Advanced and Amateur Extra examinations. Only minor changes are anticipated in the new General class examination. The new Technician exam likely will include some questions on HF operating from the current Novice test.

The new licensing plan created a lone and limited upgrade for those who held a Technician license or a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) before March 21, 1987. Those individuals may claim credit for a new General class license. This is because there was a single Technician-General written test under the old system; only the code tests differed. The upgrade is not automatic, however.

(Continued on page 4)

Amateur Restructuring

(Continued from page 1)

The FCC action also authorizes Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminates Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question Technician exam; Element 3 will be a 35-question General exam; and Element 4 will be a 50-question Amateur Extra exam. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. The Commission said it wanted to give the amateur community a chance to ''reach a consensus'' regarding new technologies before it tried to restructure amateur operating privileges and frequencies.

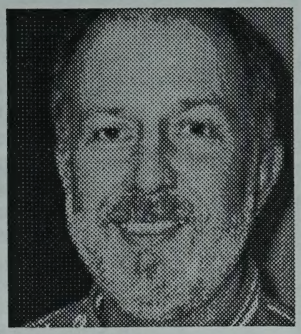
WWARA Elects New Board Member

December of each year the WWARA conducts its annual election of officers and board members. This year the WWARA membership elected Mike Hill N7NFY to a two year position on the WWARA Board of Directors. This is the second year in a row that the membership has decided that it would like someone new on the board. For a listing of the other officers elected see the meeting minutes elsewhere.

Congratulations Mike!

Mike Hill, N7NFY WWARA's newest Board Member

Clay's Corner
Year 2000



Clay Freinwald K7CR

Well here we are…a brand new century, the post Y2K scare period and BOY!.things are NOT the same!

First of all thank-you for the vote of confidence at the last meeting where you elected me to be your V.P. for the next year. I will do my best, however, I do need your help with what lies ahead….we have our work cut out.

Looking back at when the WWARA was born, back in 1976, things were pretty simple. Repeaters were a relatively new means of amateur communications and we were faced with abundant spectrum with which to put them. The WWARA's function was then much the same as it is now, coordinate repeater systems. The composition of the membership is also very much the same, repeater owners who come to the organization to find a place in the ever crowded spectrum where they can operate their system. Several years ago the WWARA, along with other neighboring coordination organizations, in an effort to create additional repeater channels on 2 meters elected to change the channel spacing from the then 30 kHz raster to 20 kHz. There was sound technical rationale for this change and it was supported by the majority of the repeater owners as well as users. Recently in Southern California, in an effort to create additional repeater pairs on UHF the coordination organization there, SCRBBA, decided that a change from the present 25 kHz spacing to 20 kHz would be in their best interest. The majority of their members approved the change. The two examples parallel ends when you look at what those in SoCal that did not agree with the decision did. There the battle lines were drawn as the minority decided that it was time to challenge not only the decision but the method by which coordinators are determined and the authority under which they operate. They took the matter to their congressional representative who in turn took the matter to the FCC. This resulted in the FCC issuing letters that have been distributed across the country that attempts to clarify the Commissions position re. Coordinators. Frankly, in my view, the FCC has demonstrated a couple of things. 1) It does not want to get involved. 2) It wants amateurs to work out the problems, 3) I really does not understand how coordination works in all cases, 4) In it effort to resolve the issues brought before it has perhaps created more problems that it has resolved. This is a very complicated situation with some very serious implications for not only the WWARA but Amateur Coordinators in particular. In order for the WWARA to make sure that it is able to maintain what it has spent the last 25 years to build (not to mention what you have supported) its necessary that we take a very serious look at just what the FCC is trying to do here and, if necessary it may well be necessary to make changes in the way the WWARA is structured and operates in order to be in compliance with these new FCC policies and to make sure that the peace and order that we have come to know and appreciate is able to continue. As your V.P. this is my first job of this new year. I will be meeting with the newly elected Board as well as some of the past leadership with the goal of making some concrete recommendations to you the members. Trust me, we will not be making changes WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL. On the national scene, there is a flurry of activity with the national organizations of coordinators (NFCC) working with the ARRL to determine just what can be done in working with the FCC that appears to have a new millennium attitude. The next couple of meetings will be critical to the WWARA, I do hope that you are able to attend and hear all the details and hopefully participate in charting our course in this new century.

As if this were not enough, the FCC just announced the most sweeping changes in the licensing structure since incentive licensing of many years ago. In the recent announcement the FCC has essentially de-valued many existing licenses by reducing the CW speed ability to 5 WPM (those that have 13 and 20 wpm licenses are sure to love this). They have also reduced the number of classes to 3, Tech, General and Extra. You will be hearing a whole lot about this change, I'm sure.

The FCC has given us a whole lot to consider in this new year. I sincerely hope that these changes will encourage you to take an active part in the decisions that need to be made. I not only need your support, but I need your experience and wisdom too.

The Coordinator

The Coordinator is published by-monthly by the Western Washington Amateur Relay Association. Portions of this newsletter are copyrighted by Mark McKibbin or by the WWARA and may not reproduced without the written consent.

The WWARA acknowledges and thanks World Radio, ARRL, FCC, Newsline, HamRadio Online and W5YI for allowing us to reprint some of their articles.

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

16541 Redmond Way – PMB 243, Redmond, WA. 98052-4482

EASY PAYMENT FORM

My enclosed check is for: Check # _____

____ year(s) Dues @ $12/year Total $ _____

____ Rptr Directories @ $6 each for members ($8.95 each for non-members)

Name: _____ **Call:** _____

Addr: _____ **Freq:** _____

City: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Home #: _____ **Work #:** _____

CL ___ min area: DB ___ QB ___ RD ___

Coorespondence Log

Date	Activity
10/04/1999	TD Sheet and Fee from David Mesenbrink, KC7AU
11/01/1999	$75 cash for RD's from Jon Marcinko, WR7JM
11/01/1999	Dues from Richard Kuniholm, N7LOA
11/05/1999	Email correspondence from Christopher Palmer, KD7AKB
11/06/1999	On-line Renewal from Harold Todd, W7ZXM
11/07/1999	Email correspondence to Will (last name or callsign unknown)
	Email correspondence to Mike McCoy, N7VWD
	Email correspondence from Ron Ohnhaus, K0BQ
11/16/1999	Dues and RF from Harold Todd, W7ZXM
	Ck for RD's from Radio Depot
	TD Sheet from Sara Harold, KB7ZTC
11/20/1999	$18 cash for Dues and RD from Frank Volz, KA7DNK
	TD Sheet and Fee from David Swartz, KC7RRH
	TD Sheet and Fee from Port Ludlow ARC, N7PL / WR7V
11/21/1999	Email correspondence from Matt Taormina, N7KXU
11/28/1999	Email correspondence from Carl Di Paolo
	Email correspondence from/to Bill Harwell, KC7QHJ
11/29/1999	Email correspondence from Christopher Palmer, KD7AKB
11/30/1999	Email correspondence to Christopher Palmer, KD7AKB
	Email correspondenc from Martin Johnson, KC7ZWG
12/03/1999	Email correspondence to Harold Todd, W7ZXM
12/04/1999	$6 cash for RD from David Swartz, KC7RRH
	$3 cash for RD
	$12 cash for Dues from Ed Bruette, N7NVP
	$12 cash for Dues from Rob Lee, K7TGU
	$90 cash for RD's from Alan Hughes, KB7SVU
	$12 cash for Dues from Phil Ferrell, K7PF
	$12 cash for Dues from Terry Martin, N7TJA
	$12 cash for Dues from Don Martin, N7LXC
	$24 cash for Dues from Mike Crawford, WB7DFQ
	$12 cash for Dues from Bill Whitney, WO7O
	Dues from Nancy McKibbin, KB7BJE
	Dues from Mark McKibbin, WR7V
	Dues from Port Ludlow Amateur Radio Club
	Dues & RD from Stephen Pruss, KB7WKK
	Dues from Harry Lewis, W7JWJ
	Dues from Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club
	TD Sheet, Fee, and Dues from Mike Hill, N7NFY
	Dues from Ivory Jackson, N7CHN
	Dues from Ken Rau, K7YR
	Dues from Ron Verschuyl, K7AAE
	Dues from Jon Marcinko, WR7JM
	Correspondence from Tom Murphy, N7QHX
	Dues from Orville Adair, K7LVB
	Dues from Stuart Farmer, K7WF
	Dues from Sno-King Repeater Group, K7CHN/R
	Dues from R H Dewey, N7SSP
	Ck for RD's from Radio Depot
	Email correspondence from Todd Buiten, KB8EFE
	Email correspondence from Noel Santos, AA7ST
12/09/1999	Email correspondence from Jim Etzwiler, KD7BAT
12/10/1999	Email correspondence to Christopher Palmer, KD7AKB
	Email correspondence to/from Jim Etzwiler, KD7BAT
	Email correspondence from/to William Sawders, K7ZM
12/12/1999	Email correspondence from/to Bill Rourke, W7ERH
12/15/1999	Ck for RD's from Brian Winslow, N7QLN
	Email correspondence from/to Scott Ray, WC7A
	On-line update from Herman Entz, K7PAG
12/19/1999	Dues from Gobblers Knob ARC, KD7DUJ

Questions

(Continued from page 2)

Affected individuals will have to apply through a Volunteer Examiner test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof of having completed the requirements for a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC.

Judging from the questions coming into ARRL HQ, many hams want to know whether to upgrade now or wait for the new system. If you're either a Tech Plus or an Advanced licensee, there might be an advantage to taking an exam now. The FCC has told the League that current Tech Plus licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 3B may apply for a General class upgrade when the new rules become effective. Likewise, current Advanced licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 4B may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade under the new system. To be valid on April 15, 2000, any such CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid CSCE, and pay any required application fee ($6.65 for the ARRL-VEC).

The reduced Morse code requirement hit a nerve with some hams who felt it "devalued" their upper-class licenses. Others, however, felt it minimized an unnecessary obstacle. The FCC said it believes a demonstration of Morse proficiency does not necessarily indicate an individual's "ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," as the FCC put it. The Commission also said it was not convinced that Morse proficiency had any particular value to emergency preparedness.

The reduction in the Morse code requirement was not entirely unexpected. Several other countries already have lowered their Morse code examination requirements, and some observers believe the Morse requirement will disappear altogether once it's eliminated in the international Radio Regulations. The FCC said it opted for the "least burdensome requirement" as its sole Morse standard. While the 13 and 20 WPM code tests soon will be history, the FCC said that "provisions must remain in place for accommodating individuals with severe disabilities."

FCC AUDITS SOUTH CAROLINA EXAM SESSION:

Following up on allegations of irregularities, the FCC is auditing a July 14 W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio examination session in Clemson, South Carolina. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth this month sent inquiries to several individuals said to have been involved with the session, including four W5YI-VEC Volunteer Examiners. Several licensees who took and passed examinations at the session also were designated for retesting.

"We had some very serious allegations from some of the examiners that their signature appeared on the 610 forms as well as the manifest for the exam and they weren't present," Hollingsworth said this week. "We have some other evidence that we're not revealing at this time, but we're just auditing the Clemson exam and we'll be looking at some other tests as part of this same investigation."

At the core of the issue is an examination "sub-session" arranged following a regularly scheduled test session the same day in Clemson. The W5YI-VEC, which has cooperated with the FCC in the investigation, says there's reason to believe that VEC paperwork may have been forged, some of the alleged volunteer examiners actually were impostors, and one examiner also was an examinee.

Hollingsworth has written volunteer examiners Eugene D. Watring, AF4DB; "Dale" Martin, KT4NY; Grady P. Robinson, AK4N; and Mikel T. Blackwell, N4OPD, asking each if he signed the manifest or any Forms 610 or authorized anyone to sign on his behalf; if he was present for the exam session or any part of it, and, if so, the time and location; the nature of his involvement, if any, in the July 14 examination session, and, if he were not present, how he became aware that "your purported signature appeared" on the exam session documents.

In a prepared statement, Fred Maia, W5YI, said the FCC is especially interested in the circumstances of the upgrade of William J. Browning, AB4BB (ex-AF4PJ and KE4BWS), from General to Amateur Extra. Maia says Browning "upgraded his General class license at a second session held after he acted as team leader at his regular examination session held the same day at the same location." Maia says the second exam session appears to be "a concocted session to upgrade a specific licensee."

Coorespondence Log

(Continued)

	Ck for RD's from Don Shephard, W7GEA
	Dues from Stephen Ward, WC7I
	Dues from Alan Chandler, K6RFK
12/20/1999	Fee and correspondence from Tom Bigelow, KG7IK
	Email correspondence from Phil Kester, WN7Q
12/21/1999	$33 cash for RD's from Bob Lewis, KC7TGA
12/24/1999	Ck for RD's from Robert Rolfe, KD7QG
	Ck for RD's from John Insull, KD7HFD
	Email correspondence from Ric Martin, VE7CUP
	Email correspondence to Internet Communications
12/25/1999	Email correspondence to Ric Martin, VE7CUP
12/29/1999	Dues from Mark McClain, N6OBY
	Email correspondence from Tom Bigelow, KG7IK
	TD Sheet and Fee from Grays Harbor ARC, W7ZA
	Email correspondence to/from Robert Rolfe, KD7QG
12/31/1999	$12 cash for Dues from John Schurman, AA7UJ

(RD= Repeater Directory, TD= Technical Data, RF= Renewal Fee)

ENHANCED AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT ENTERS A NEW YEAR

As the new year gets under way, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth hinted he might have to break bad on hard-core offenders this year. He explained that poor or lax FCC enforcement in the past led him to be more forgiving of rulebreakers during his first full calendar year in the enforcement chair. Now, those who persist in operating outside of the stated basis and purpose of Amateur Radio "are beginning to try our patience," he said. "I can't say we're going to be as compassionate this year."

Hollingsworth said he expected to continue his focus on incursions into the 10-meter band by unlicensed operators, especially as propagation gets better, and on equipment certification issues. "We're very concerned about the illegal equipment we see for sale at hamfests," he explained.

Overall, however, malicious interference remains "the basic problem," as he put it. "We're going to use the High-Frequency Direction Finding Center at Laurel [Maryland] more this year" to track down rulebreakers, he said. In addition, Hollingsworth now has enhanced monitoring tools at his Gettysburg office, allowing him access to the HFDF Center's 14 antenna fields plus VHF-UHF "pods" that can be moved around as necessary. "We have dial-in capabilities to all of our antenna fields and to the pods, so we can cover HF, UHF, and VHF anywhere in the country, right here from the Gettysburg office," he explained.

"It's a force multiplier, so to speak," Hollingsworth said of the new capabilities.

Hollingsworth also says he's upbeat about the future of ham radio and the FCC's Amateur Radio restructuring plan announced December 30. "I'm really optimistic about it," he said this week. "I think that it's a good idea to simplify things a little bit as far as the number of license classes," he added, referring to the new three-tiered system.

Hollingsworth said he believes Amateur Radio needs more young blood to keep it going in the future, and he thinks the new licensing system that becomes effective April 15 might help in that regard. He declined, however, to comment further on the specific policies and rules the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau laid down in its Report and Order, saying it would not be appropriate.

FCC TURNS AWAY HAM-BAND BROADCASTING PETITION:

The FCC has turned down a request by Michael R. Reynolds, W0KIE, to permit amateurs to make one-way transmissions intended for reception by the general public on Amateur Service frequencies above 420 MHz. Reynolds had said that, if adopted, his proposal would provide new opportunities for noncommercial, community-oriented radio and additional diversity on the radio dial. He also asserted that Amateur Service frequencies above 420 MHz are "seriously underutilized."

The FCC dismissed the petition November 18, apparently without ever assigning it a rulemaking number or soliciting comments. In dismissing the petition, the FCC said that the Amateur Service was not intended to be used for broadcasting, that authorizing broadcasting in the 420-450 MHz band could cause harmful interference to other stations that share the band with amateurs, that the band is well-populated with repeaters, and that 420 MHz is the lowest amateur frequency available for spread spectrum and ATV. The FCC also noted the pending petition to create a low-power FM broadcasting service.—W5YI Report

Voting Receiver Circuit

Interested in a two channel audio noise voting circuit for your repeater? Check out the one built by By Mark Kolber WB2WHC 134 Merry Dell Drive Churchville PA 18966 phone: (215) 323-1763

http://www.kuggie.com/rbtip/wb2whc.html

Swap and Shop

Forsale: Icom 781 HF Transceiver. Mint condition, includes service manual $3100. Icom RP1220 1.2 Ghz fully Synthesised repeter (the new kind) $2000. Must pick up in Port Ludlow. Mark, WR7V 360 437-0718

Foresale: WWARA members in need of 1/2" X 8' copper clad ground rods should contact Herman K7PAG or Al K7HW. $4.00 each or 10 for $30.00. These rods are threaded on the ends and may be stacked for depth.

December 4, 1999 General Meeting Minutes

The December 4th, General Meeting was held at the Seattle Times Plant in Bothell. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Marcinko, WR7JM at 10:05am.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Tom Murphy- N7QHY, Bill Harwell- KC7QHJ, Jim VanderMeer- Kc7ASV, Ron Verschuyl- K7AAE, Ivory Jackson- N7CHN, Terry Martin- N7JTA, Don Martin- N7LXC, David Swartz- KC7RRH, Ken Rau- K7YR, Jack Burrell- W7JTB, Mark McKibbin- WR7V, Nancy McKibbin- KB7BJE, Rob Lee- K7TGU, Al Burleson- K7HW, Mike Crawford- WB7DFQ, Stephen Pruss- KB7WKK, Harry Lewis- W7JWJ, Bill Rourke- W7ERH, Ed Bruette- N7NVP, Erik Hokanson- N7VGG, Michael Hill- N7NFY, Bob Lewis- KC7TGA, Pete Kruml- N7KFJ, Herman Entz- K7PAG, Mark McClain- N6OBY, Clay Freinwald- K7CR, and Jon Marcinko- WR7JM.

The minutes from the October 7th, Board Meeting were approved. The Treasurer read the current financial report. Approval was not given due to a required change to correct the entry of the check for the printing of the Repeater Directories. Copies were available for members to review.

ADJACENT AREAS:

- IACC: Herman Entz and Rob Lee reported that they have recent correspondence with Doug Ryder. Doug advised us of three coordination changes (moves); 145.17 to Moxee, 146.84 to Darland Mt, and 146.78 to King Mt. Jon and Herman studied these changes and feel there will be no impact to repeaters in our area.

- B.C.: Rob Lee reported that George Merchant requested our input on a pending BCARCC coordination for 442.775 at 750 feet in Vancouver. Rob advised George of the WA7TZY repeater in Woodinville on that pair, and also notified Fred Telewski, WA7TZY. Both repeaters are at lower elevations and should not present any problems. Rob is also working with George and another BC user searching for a pair.

- ORRC: ORRC Chairman, Carl Di Paolo, W7EXH, requested our assistance in a coordination request for a UHF repeater on the side of Mt Hood. Jon Marcinko will continue to work on arranging a meeting with the ORRC like the one we had with BCARCC this summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TECHNICAL- Nothing reported.

6/10 Meters-

Board actions: 53.31 (Cougar Mt.) Pete Kruml, N7KFJ- The Board approved a change in ERP and other minor updates; 53.13 (Everett) Loren Hole, KK7M- The Board approved the request for Assignment and Move.

Other/Pending: Construction continues for 53.41 (Pack Forest) Bob Hesselberg- K7MXE, and 53.43 (Bainbridge Is.) Bob Lewis- KC7TGA.

2 Meters-

Board actions: 145.15 (KO Peak) Pete Policani K7PP- The Board agreed that the coordination request should be returned, as there has been no activity since 1998; 145.17 (KO Peak) David Messenbrink, KC7UA- The Board disapproved this request for Assignment. The current coordination is for operation at the original Megler location; 147.04 (Federal Way) David Swartz, KC7RRH- The Board approved this request for Assignment; 146.62 (Bremerton) Ron Ohnhaus, K0BQ- The Board approved the Assignment and change in ERP; 145.43 (Toledo) William Harwell, KC7QHJ- Request for Assignment is approved pending correspondence from William stating he is the Club President.

Other: 146.76 (Federal Way) David Swartz KD7DPL- The Board acknowledged temporary operation at an alternate location and agreed that the test period will be suspended during this time; 145.31 (Redmond) Ron Verschuyl, K7AAE- Authorization to test was OK'd.

220-

No Board actions.

Other: 224.14 (Columbia Heights) Stephen Hart K7SH- Band Chair has received no response to several messages left regarding test period; 224.50 (E. Tiger Mt) Mark McClain N6OBY- Waiting for notice that testing has begun.

440-

Board actions: 442.625 (Baldi) Gary Kohtala W7NTF- The Board approved coordination; 442.325 (Cougar Mt) Pete Kruml, N7KFJ- The Board approved the change in ERP and correction of the Elevation; 441.575 (Port Ludlow) Mark MCKibbin, WR7V- The Board approved the Assignment and update in ERP; 444.025 (Mt Lake Terrace) Sara Herold, KB7ZTC- The Board approved the request for Assignment.

Other: 441.850 (Mt Brynion) Carl Di Paolo W7EXH- Testing; 440.775 (Seattle) Mark Sheppard N7LYE- Intermittent testing; 441.500 (Seattle) Mark Sheppard N7LYE- Testing as of 11/28/99; 444.125 (Index) Ray Ubis KJ7HS/KG7UB- Construction of site now underway; 441.850 (Redmond) Marc Miller N6TJQ- Testing as of 9/14/99; 442.800 (Buck Mt) Mike Hill N7NFY- New coordination (move from Stevens Pass); 440.675 (Redmond) Mark McClain N6OBY- Waiting for notification that 60 day test period has begun.

Misc: 444.475 (Bainbridge Is) Bob Lewis KC7TGA- Frequency change- waiting on Tech Data Sheet; 441.375 (Spanaway) Gary Kohtala W7NTF- Move from Gold Mt, looking for permanent site.

900/1.2- No Board action.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed Bruette, N7NVP, Financial Review Committee Chair, provided a written report and brief review of the Financial Review that took place at his residence on Saturday, Oct 23rd. The committee consisted of Ed Bruette, N7NVP, Board Member and Committee Chair, Bob Lewis, KC7TGA- member at large, Nancy McKibbin, KB7BJE- previous Secretary/Treasurer, Mark McKibbin, WR7V- previous Chairman and current Board member, Mark McClain, N6OBY- Secretary/Treasurer. The committee reviewed financial records (Quickbooks, Financial Record Summary, bank statements and deposit slips) for 1995 through 1998. No discrepancies were found. Additionally, the committee spot-checked financial transactions for the following officers during the review period: Nancy McKibbin, KB7BJE, Mark McKibbin, WR7V, Steve Mayes, KA7PMC, John Spraque, KA7JUR, and Jon Marcinko, WR7JM, and found no discrepancies.

NEW BUSINESS

Clay reported that the FCC is increasing their level of enforcement, led by Riley Hollingsworth. With this taking place, the ARRL has not made any changes at this time. Also, the NFCC is still working on scheduling a meeting with Chris Emlay, NFCB members, Riley Hollingsworth and other FCC staff members, to discuss where we're at with the coordination of Amateur Repeaters.

Clay also reported that there have been many challenges to coordination groups around the country. A group in the Rio Grande area of Texas wants to split off, SCRRBA is trying to force a change in channel separation. A group challenged SCRRBA and went to their local Congressman, and then on to the FCC for assistance. The FCC issued a "Commission Opinion" letter (5 pages!). The main discussion point surrounding all of this seems to be whether or not the existing coordination groups are servicing "the entire ham community. The major issues at this time seem to be; Lack of interest, Lack of broad-based support, and different attitudes of frequency coordinators.

In other related events- the New York coordination group "up and quit", and there are several competing groups providing coordination activities on Oregon and Indiana.

In closing, Clay recommended that we hold a 1-day "retreat" to discuss the overall direction of the WWARA.

It was recommended that the sign-in sheet be modified to provide a spot to list Club representation, along with the number of Amateurs represented.

Herman Entz, K7PAG, proposed that we review and officially adopt a 2-meter Band Plan, and presented a draft version. After a short discussion, it was concluded that a need plan will need to be shared with all Amateurs in the region and adjacent areas. Then we will publish a proposed plan prior to formal adoption. Clay motioned that "the WWARA shall exert all possible effort to publish a draft recommendation of the 2-meter Band Plan with the goal of establishing consensus with the broad number of users of this spectrum. Al Burleson, K7HW, seconded the motion. A goal was set to vote on this at the April meeting.

Harold Todd, W7ZXM, suggested (via written correspondence) that we consider allowing metric measurements on our coordination and renewal forms, and advised that the FCC has switched to metric on their forms. Currently, our on-line renewal form does not specify feet or meters for specific fields. Mark McKibbin, WR7V, will enhance the on-line form and provide a clarification.

Mark McKibbin, WR7V, started a discussion regarding the Year 2000 Repeater Directory. Mark proposed that we consider producing an improved product with a better binding and the possibility of a color cover. Mark has already done some research and found that we can potentially have a better directory at a slightly lower publishing cost. A final decision will be mae at the February Board meeting.

A discussion was held about the use of SNP's for linking on a temporary basis. Ed Bruette, N7NVP, recommended that we discuss this at the February Board meeting.

Mark McKibbin, WR7V, reported that our Web provider reset the 'hit' counter on our Homepage. Of the 237 hits since it was reset, users selected the following pages; Directories- 104 times, News- 51 times, Links- 40 times, New Coordinations- 55 times, Officers- 26 times, Bylaws- 16 times, and Policies- 13 times.

Ed Bruette initiated a discussion about possible changes to our Bylaws to allow members who are not owners of coordinated repeaters to hold Board positions. (Currently, Article V, Section 4 of the Bylaws state- "The Board of directors shall be elected from WWARA regular members who are holders of COC (Certificate of Coordination). Nominees must be present or submit evidence as to their willingness to serve.") It was decided that this topic could be used as an agenda item at the proposed retreat.

Elections for the 2000 Board of Directors were held:

Chairman- Jon Marcinko, WR7JM,

Vice Chairman- Clay Freinwald, K7CR

Secretary-Treasurer- Mark McClain, N6OBY

Board Representative #2- Mark McKibbin, WR7V

Board Representative #4- Mike Hill, N7NFY

The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm. The next meeting will be a Board Meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2000 at 7:00pm. The location was not determined and will be posted at a later time.

Minutes by Mark McClain, N6OBY

Meeting Notice

The next WWARA Board Membership meeting will beFebruary 3, 2000 at the Radio Club of Tacoma Club House. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

All WWARA members and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

NEW ADDRESS:
Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
16541 Redmond Way
PMB 243
Redmond, WA 98052

8 SEATTLE WA 981
PM
28 JAN
2000

STEVEN STROH, N8GNJ
14919 NE 163RD ST
WOODINVILLE, WA. 98072

Dues Exp.
Dec. 1999

Meeting Notice:
The next WWARA Board of Directors Meeting will Be Februaru 3, 2000 at the Radio Club of Tacoma. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM. All members are invited.

98072/8957

THE WESTERN WASHINGTON AMATEUR RELAY ASSOCIATION
SERVING REPEATER OWNERS AND USERS SINCE 1976

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000

POSITION	NAME	CALL	PHONE
Chairman	Jon Marcinko	WR7JM	253 566-9049
Vice Chairman	Clay Freinwald	K7CR	253 939-1414
Secretary/Treas.	Mark McClain	N6OBY	425 881-9389
Representative #1	Ed Bruette	N7NVP	360 698-0917
Representative #2	Mark McKibbin	WR7V	360 437-0718
Representative #3	Pete Kruml	N7KFJ	425 313-5877
Representative #4	Mike Hill	N7NFY	425 238-8900

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Technical	Steve Mayes / Marty Hadfield	KA7PMC/WB7AFV	425 558-9525
Membership	Clay Freinwald	K7CR	253 939-1414
Coordinator Editor	Mark McKibbin	WR7V	360 437-0718
10 & 6 Meters	Ed Bruette	N7NVP	360 698-0917
2 Meters	Al Burelson / Herman Entz	K7HW/K7PAG	253 857-5946
220 MHZ	Peter Kruml	N7KFJ	425 313-5877
440 MHZ	Rob Lee	K7TGU	
900/1200	Gene Colson	W7UVH	360 492-4313

Please feel free to contact your WWARA officials at any time for additional information about the Association. The COORDINATOR is published 6 times a year and mailed to all parties having a WWARA coordinated system as well as those whom are paid USER members. Dues are $12 per calendar year. Address all formal correspondence and requests for coordination to:

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
16541 Redmond Way PMB 243
Redmond, WA 98052